

FOCUS



Autumn 2003 EDITION



Election Results

In the May 2003 Reigate & Banstead Council elections, Liberal Democrats were **the only party to make a gain**. As well as retaining all our current Council seats, we won a hard fought seat in Earlswood and Whitebushes. We are now the second largest party on the Council, making us the official opposition to the Conservative administration.

Nationally, this year's elections saw Liberal Democrats achieve the highest ever share of the vote, 30 per cent, taking seats from both Labour and the Tories.

No Council Democracy

Many organisations in the Borough request Councillor representation at meetings. Liberal Democrat Councillors are always anxious to volunteer where they can be of assistance, so we applied for 6 volunteer posts where we felt we were able to contribute constructively. As the second largest party on the Council, we expect to represent our residents on a fair pro rata basis, however, the Conservative administration who make all these decisions, decided to use there own undemocratic process in an attempt to exclude Liberal Democrats from serving on any voluntary organisation. Of the 30 voluntary appointments made after the election, the Tories took 23, Labour were given 3, the Residents Associations 3 and one Independent . If you ever meet a Conservative Councillor, ask them if they think that's democratic and if it's in the interest of residents?

Phone Masts

The shock announcement that Orange planned to install mobile phone communication masts in a number of densely populated areas of the Borough, led to a vigorous campaign of opposition by residents and your Liberal Democrat Councillors.

Orange has said that, if the Council seriously objects to lots of small masts, an option is to erect one very large powerful one that would be visible for miles!

Liberal Democrat Councillors will continue to support residents, who feel very concerned about the impact on health and property values, in the fight against phone masts.



Trip to the Skip

If you want to stop land fill sites filling up with plastic bottles, you have no choice other than to take them to a collection point yourself.



There **must** be doorstep collection of plastic. Please turn over for more about recycling.

National and Local...

"The Governments failing environmental strategy is turning Britain into one giant rubbish dump" - Liberal Democrat MP, Norman Baker.

Over 65 million tonnes of rubbish was dumped or buried last year. This includes:

BURIED - 6bn disposable nappies

BURIED - 24m car tyres

DUMPED - 94,000 fridges

DUMPED - 5,600 tonnes of furniture

DUMPED - 42.2m bags of rubble

DUMPED - 226,000 old cars

BURIED - 32m printer cartridges

BURIED - 2m mobile phones

DUMPED - 468m batteries

BURIED - 32m glass bottles

BURIED - 972m plastic bottles

Waste is the product of modern living, but dumping and burying are not the solution. Recycling services must be improved to cope. The £650 million spent bailing out the nuclear industry could have paid for national doorstep recycling - twice over!

Some years ago, Conservative run Surrey County Council entered into a contract for waste management with a company that promised to drastically improve Surrey's recycling rate. It still hasn't implemented the promised Materials Recycling Facilities and Surrey County Council's waste management strategy has singularly failed to manage Surrey's waste.

Your Liberal Democrat Councillors implemented doorstep collection of recyclable rubbish in 1997, despite massive Tory objections. After five years in power, the Conservatives have only just got back to the level of recycling we achieved in 1998.

There has been no new innovation by this Tory Council.

Did you know that, when you've filled the 75p Garden Waste sack, it goes straight to land fill?



**REDUCE
REUSE
RECYCLE**

You Told Us...

The overwhelming response when we asked you what you would like recycled from your doorstep was, 'please collect glass, plastic and garden waste'.

Your Local Liberal Democrat team will continue to put pressure on the Tory Council to let you recycle more.



Local Post Offices Under Threat

The Post Office has announced proposals to close some local branches. These branch offices are the key to local community shopping in many parts of the Borough and your Liberal Democrat Councillors will be fighting to maintain these vital local services.

**Problems?
Grumbles?
Want to help?**

CONTACT DETAILS

LOCAL BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

Clr Graham Norman	760465
Clr Liz Pinn	222184
Clr Steve Kulka	215111
Clr Sue Merritt	644706
Clr Deanna Durward	642942
Clr Jim Dann	213464
Clr Simone Stein	774258

Councillors can also be contacted by email, via the Council Web Site.



www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk

Would you like to comment on this edition of FOCUS?

Do you want us to help with any problem?

- Would you display a poster at election time?
- Would you deliver a few Lib Dem leaflets?
- Would you like to join the local Lib Dems?

Please ring 215111 or 246305

Reigate Liberal Democrats

FREEPOST SEA 10780

Reigate, Surrey RH2 7BR

We work hard all year round to improve our local area.

You could help too!